

rape kit backlog. It also improves housing rights for domestic violence victims. We have these centers in our congressional districts that many of us are familiar with where spouses and children go to escape violence. It also assists with hiring full-time sexual assault nurse examiners in every hospital throughout the country.

Additionally, this bill ensures that the guilty are punished and helps to protect the wrongfully convicted by improving access to postconviction DNA testing. One thing we have learned for certain over the last decade is that, in law enforcement, DNA testing has become an important tool to apprehend and to prove guilt where, in fact, we did not have that tool before.

These strengthened policies will better provide support for victims of crime throughout the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. COSTA. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, these policies will provide better support for victims of crime throughout the country, especially those who live in rural regions, and we have many rural regions throughout the country. I represent one of those areas in California, the San Joaquin Valley.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this bill, and I hope the Senate acts swiftly before the end of the year so this Justice for All Reauthorization Act is enacted before Congress adjourns.

Let us remember, Mr. Speaker, that these victims of crimes are members of our families; they are our neighbors; they are people who we know in our communities and in our congressional districts. We know who they are, and we know that these are innocent victims of crime. This legislation goes a long way to address their issues. I urge the support of my colleagues.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will close my remarks by thanking Mr. COSTA for his leadership. We know that our good friend Congressman TED POE wanted to be here. We thank him for his leadership and the many Members who engaged in this important legislation.

The Justice for All Reauthorization Act is supported by a broad spectrum of organizations involved in or affected by our criminal justice system. Let me share a few: the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys Association, the Council of State Governments, the United States Conference of Mayors, the National Center for Victims of Crime, the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Innocence Project.

In closing, I would like to commend my colleagues in the House, including Judiciary Committee Chairman BOB GOODLATTE; Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman SENSENBRENNER; and Congressman TED POE, the sponsor of the House companion; and the work that we have done on the Judiciary Committee, as I started out my remarks, in dealing with the enormity of sentencing, passing legislation that will reduce the impact of mandatory minimums, prison reform that we have passed, and certainly looking to reform juvenile justice.

I, too, hope that the legislation that we are speaking of will move and be passed before this session of Congress ends. I would like to think optimistically that we may get some very important bills that we have dealt with in the Judiciary Committee passed as well.

I also want to acknowledge Senator PATRICK LEAHY for his authorship of the underlying statute and for his leadership of the reauthorization of these critical programs, and as I indicated, my senior Senator, JOHN CORNYN, of Texas.

I want to conclude by saying that I left Texas in the backdrop of a Federal court hearing that dealt with the broken bail system, another aspect of criminal justice reform, where 40 percent of individuals on misdemeanors who cannot pay \$150 or cannot pay \$100 remain incarcerated. What we are doing today is we are joining in a bipartisan manner to begin to approach some of those inequities by this legislation, and I know that we can move forward on many others. So I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this legislation today, which is an important bill, S. 2577, and the House companion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for his hard work and his leadership on this issue, and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) as well.

This is a very good bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote for the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I urge the House to pass the Justice for All Reauthorization Act to improve crime victims access to justice, support law enforcement, exonerate the innocent, and strengthen and improve our criminal justice system. In the House, I would like to thank Representative JIM COSTA for joining me in introducing this important legislation. I would also like to thank Senator JOHN CORNYN and Senator PATRICK LEAHY for sponsoring this bill in the Senate.

The Justice for All Act of 2004 enhanced protection for crime victims, provided resources to expand the use of DNA and forensic technology to capture and convict criminals, and established safeguards to reverse wrongful convictions.

This legislation reauthorizes these important programs and also increases crime victims access to restitution and improves housing protections for domestic violence victims. Under this legislation, states will be encouraged to test unexamined DNA evidence in criminal cases to ensure that innocent people are not imprisoned for crimes they did not commit. But one of the most important things this law will do is tackle the national rape kit backlog by providing critically important resources to forensic labs. A victim of rape is sentenced to a lifetime of mental turmoil, but as rape victim Debbie Smith can attest, also knowing that your attacker is still on the streets is far worse.

Debbie was at home doing laundry one afternoon in Williamsburg, Virginia. Suddenly, a masked intruder walked through her backdoor and dragged her outside into a wooded area where he raped her repeatedly. Her attacker told her that if she called the police, he would return to her house and kill her. She was lucky to escape with her life. It was only after her husband begged her to contact the police that she agreed to take a forensic exam. Even though the police had a DNA sample, they didn't test her rape kit. Debbie was left in fear that her rapist would return to her home and kill her for reporting her rape. Finally, after six and a half years, the police tested Debbie's kit and put her attacker behind bars. Debbie has since become a fierce advocate for the elimination of the rape kit testing backlog that occurs all across the nation, and she has been a loud supporter of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act's provisions to address this issue.

As Debbie has said, I know that DNA testing gave me peace, and I want to make sure that other victims have that same opportunity. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 is supported by over a thousand victim advocacy groups from around the country. I urge my colleagues to vote to pass this important, bipartisan piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2577, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5422) to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5422

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE; PERFECTING AMENDMENT.

(a) HHS FUNDING FOR TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Section 107(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22

U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking “of amounts made available for grants under paragraph (2).”.

(b) PERFECTING AMENDMENT.—Section 603 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129 Stat. 259) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Victims of Crime Trafficking” and inserting “Victims of Trafficking”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as if enacted as part of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129 Stat. 227).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5422, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we consider on suspension H.R. 5422. This bill corrects an inadvertent change made in the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 that caused grant funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline to be processed through the Department of Justice rather than through the Department of Health and Human Services, as it had been historically.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the United States, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in more than 200 languages. The hotline's mission is to connect trafficking victims and survivors to critical support services and to equip the antitrafficking community with the tools to effectively combat all forms of human trafficking.

This bill was introduced on June 9, 2015, by Congressman TED POE, a tireless advocate for the prevention of human trafficking and for trafficking victims, and the bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee on November 16 by a voice vote.

While Congressman POE is undergoing treatment for leukemia and is unable to be here, I want to once again let him know that he is in our prayers. We are confident in his recovery and continue to appreciate all his work on these important human trafficking matters. I thank Congressman POE for sponsoring this legislation that corrects an inadvertent drafting oversight, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5422, a bill that I have cosponsored in order to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a crucial component in the fight against human trafficking, and also to pay tribute to my neighbor, Congressman TED POE, and join in wishing him a strong recovery. We look forward to continuing to work against the scourge of human trafficking. We have been told, of course, of Houston being the epicenter of such.

As I have said many times before, trafficking in human beings has no place in a civilized society. Congress decided 150 years ago that no individual deserves to be bought, owned, or sold. Our country is now faced with a modern-day version of slavery that denies victims of their humanity and violates the most basic American ideals of liberty and individual autonomy.

Human trafficking is the second fastest growing criminal enterprise: 4,177 sex trafficking cases and 824 trafficking cases were reported in the first 9 months of this year in the United States and its territories. Traffickers use trickery and, most often, coercion and violence to force victims to provide labor or perform sexual acts.

My home city of Houston has been identified as a hub for human trafficking, as I have said. I am proud to say that Houston and the entire State of Texas are working hard to stave off this growing threat.

In an effort to understand the problem and find real solutions, we held several hearings in 2014, including the first-ever field hearing on human trafficking held by the Committee on Homeland Security that I serve on. During that hearing, we heard from victims and survivors of human trafficking. They recounted indignities they suffered as well as the physical and psychological damage done while they were young children but still felt as adults. I am very gratified that Congressman TED POE participated in that hearing, and it was very constructive and instructive as we try to continue working on a solution.

I traveled to a stash house and witnessed the atrocious conditions under which these people are held and forced to engage.

We now know that a comprehensive, collaborative approach that includes lawmakers, law enforcement, victim advocates, community organizations, and social service providers is necessary to identify victims and lead them to safety, restore them, and bring their captors to justice.

□ 1600

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center plays a critical role in the effort to save, protect, and restore victims of human trafficking. The NHTRC is a national anti-trafficking hotline and resource center created and overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services and funded through grant money appropriated to HHS. It is very important.

In 2015, the NHTRC received more than 24,000 signals regarding human trafficking cases or issues related to human trafficking, which includes phone calls, online tips, and emails.

The NHTRC is invaluable to victims, survivors, and stakeholders involving the fight against human trafficking—connecting human trafficking victims and survivors to local, victim-centered support services that provide crisis intervention, urgent or nonurgent care, or lead them to safety; providing tools to fight against human trafficking; and reporting potential trafficking tips to law enforcement. This is a very valuable service and lifeline.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), who has a long history of working with children, of arguing and advocating against the mistreatment of foster care children who find themselves disproportionately involved and subjected to the potential of human trafficking. I thank her for her leadership, for being a cosponsor of this legislation, and a Member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

I also want to join with my colleagues in wishing well Judge POE, and wishing him a speedy recovery. He has been a leader on this issue for many, many years, and the hotline is a critical feature of how we can address human trafficking in our country.

I also support the resources being managed under Health and Human Services. I believe it reflects the current awareness and knowledge that this really shouldn't be managed by law enforcement. We have all heard the stories of women and children who have been taken from location to location and forced to have sex against their will.

Currently, there are more cases of human trafficking reported in California than in any other State. This hotline has served as a lifeline/vital resource to human trafficking victims and their advocates. In California alone this year, there have been over 3,000 calls received on the hotline, resulting in over 1,000 human trafficking cases being reported, nearly a third of which are minors.

Unfortunately, there is a growing body of evidence that youth who fall through the cracks in the foster care system end up trafficked. As of 2012 in California, 50 to 80 percent of the commercially exploited children had been involved in the child welfare system. Fifty-eight percent of sexually trafficked girls in the Los Angeles County STAR Court in 2012 were under age and were connected to the foster care system. In Los Angeles, we are fortunate

to have a STAR Court, but the purpose of this court is to deal with underage children who have been trafficked.

I recently hosted an event in my district in order to train faith leaders in my community to identify and direct resources to women and girls who had been victims of trafficking. Often, it is members of our communities who are the first line of defense for these girls.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from California an additional 1 minute.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, we must work to break the foster-care-to-child-sex-trafficking-victim pipeline by continuing to fund additional programs, like the National Human Trafficking Hotline, to help identify victims and provide them with the resources that they need.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me give my closing remarks and indicate that I am grateful in determining that the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which, unfortunately, was enacted last year, mistakenly directed that funding for the NHTRC be given to the Justice Department instead of HHS, which would still be responsible for administering it. Therefore, we need to change the law to ensure that funding be directed to HHS so that it will continue to fund and oversee NHTRC in the same manner and efficiently as it has in the past. For that reason, this is an important initiative.

I commend again the actions and efforts and commitment of my colleague, Congressman TED POE. I wish him good health and thank him for continuing to work on behalf of human trafficking victims.

This bill is evidence that we have the ability to work together as a unified body to address issues that affect our country and, more importantly, that those victims of this dastardly human trafficking, when they feel so alone and cannot reach out, have a body of Members, House and Senate, who recognize the urgency and importance of this effort to help them restore their lives, but, more importantly, to stand in the way of this terrible and heinous act.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5422, a bill I have cosponsored in order to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a crucial component in the fight against human trafficking.

As I have said many times before, trafficking in human beings has no place in a civilized society.

Congress decided 150 years ago that no individual deserves to be bought, owned, or sold.

Our country is now faced with a modern-day version of slavery that denies victims of their humanity and violates the most basic American ideals of liberty and individual autonomy.

Human trafficking is the second-fastest growing criminal enterprise.

4,177 sex trafficking cases and 824 labor trafficking cases were reported in the first nine months of this year in the United States and its territories.

Traffickers use trickery and, most often, coercion and violence to force victims to provide labor or perform sexual acts.

My home city of Houston has been identified as a hub for human trafficking. I am proud to say that Houston and the entire state of Texas are working hard to stave off this growing threat.

In an effort to understand the problem and find real solutions, we held several hearings in 2014, including a Field Hearing before the Committee on Homeland Security.

During that hearing, we heard from victims and survivors of human trafficking. They recounted indignities they suffered as well as the physical and psychological damage done while they were young children, but still felt as adults.

I traveled to a stash house and witnessed the atrocious conditions under which these people are held.

We now know that a comprehensive, collaborative approach that includes law makers, law enforcement, victim advocates, community organizations, and social service providers is necessary to identify victims, lead them to safety, restore them, and bring their captors to justice.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center plays a critical role in the effort to save, protect, and restore victims of human trafficking.

The NHTRC is a national anti-trafficking hotline and resource center, created and overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services, and funded through grant money appropriated to HHS.

In 2015, the NHTRC received more than 24,000 alerts regarding human trafficking cases or issues related to human trafficking, which includes phone calls, online tips, and emails.

The NHTRC is invaluable to victims, survivors, and stakeholders involved in the fight against human trafficking—connecting human trafficking victims and survivors to local, victim-centered support services that provide crisis intervention, urgent or non-urgent care, or lead them to safety; providing tools to fight against human trafficking; and reporting potential trafficking tips to law enforcement.

Unfortunately, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which was enacted last year, mistakenly directed that funding for the NHTRC be given to the Justice Department instead of HHS, which would still be responsible for administering it.

Therefore, we need to change the law to ensure that funding be directed to HHS so that it will continue to fund and oversee the NHTRC in the same, efficient manner as it has in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of my colleague, Congressman TED POE. I wish him good health and thank him for continuing to work on behalf of human trafficking victims.

This bill is evidence that we have the ability to work together as a unified body to address issues that affect our country.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this bill today.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let's pass this legislation in honor of Congressman and former Judge TED POE, who has been a champion in the battle against human trafficking. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Laura was a middle school counselor who noticed that one of her students had begun to act strangely. Laura's instincts were right. Out of the classroom, her student, Alyssa, had started to frequently flee her foster home and was often found in random locations with adult strangers. After some investigation, Laura learned that Alyssa had been lured into the business of having sex with adults. Traffickers did what they do best, identified a vulnerable young woman and lured her into the sex trade. Laura immediately contacted the National Human Trafficking Hotline, reported what had happened to her young student and they were able to advise her on how to proceed and what social services and law enforcement agencies to contact. Because of the hotline, Laura was able to save Alyssa's life.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline serves as an essential lifeline to victims of trafficking, but it also serves as an important source of information to those who suspect they have encountered a victim of trafficking and don't know how to help. This hotline is an essential tool in the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

H.R. 5422 is a bipartisan, non-controversial bill that makes a small technical fix to allow the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to continue funding the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH). In the House, I introduced this bill with Representative CAROLYN MALONEY. I would also like to thank Senator JOHN CORNYN and Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR for sponsoring this bill in the Senate.

Without the National Hotline's guidance, Laura may never have known how to help that poor child escape her traffickers. The hotline provides trafficking victims and survivors with access to critical support and emergency services, collects tips about potential trafficking situations and disseminates training and informational materials to help raise awareness in our communities. HHS created and currently oversees and funds the NHTH. As it stands today, the funding for HHS's annual grants has been appropriated to the Department of Justice. This bill is a simple technical fix to codify the hotline within HHS and to help continue the important work being done by our nation's anti-human trafficking hotline.

Having the hotline under the jurisdiction of DOJ creates an unnecessary and unhelpful additional layer of bureaucracy. It forces HHS to be dependent on funds from DOJ to run the hotline. It is more efficient and effective for HHS to continue using its own funds to operate the NHTH.

I urge the House to pass this simple bipartisan measure to ensure the continued ease of funding to the National Human Trafficking Hotline through the Department of Health and Human Services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5422.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ADVANCED RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2016

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5877) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5877

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016”.

#### SEC. 2. COOPERATIVE HOMELAND SECURITY RESEARCH AND ANTITERRORISM PROGRAMS RELATING TO CYBERSECURITY.

(a) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Section 317 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 195c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraphs:

“(3) for international cooperative activities identified in the previous reporting period, a status update on the progress of such activities, including whether goals were realized, explaining any lessons learned, and evaluating overall success; and

“(4) a discussion of obstacles encountered in the course of forming, executing, or implementing agreements for international cooperative activities, including administrative, legal, or diplomatic challenges or resource constraints.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) CYBERSECURITY.—As part of the international cooperative activities authorized in this section, the Under Secretary, in coordination with the Department of State and appropriate Federal officials, may enter into cooperative research activities with Israel to strengthen preparedness against cyber threats and enhance capabilities in cybersecurity.”.

(b) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014.—Subsection (c) of section 7 of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–296; 22 U.S.C. 8606) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “PILOT”;

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “pilot”;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) cybersecurity.”.

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that today the House is considering H.R. 5877, the United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016.

Israel is our strongest and most trusted ally in the Middle East, and I am grateful to join with the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), my friend, in working to expand and strengthen this bond through long-term collaboration on cybersecurity efforts between our countries. H.R. 5877 builds on decades of partnership with the State of Israel by amending current law to authorize the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to enter into cooperative research activities with Israel.

H.R. 5877 also amends the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 by further formalizing the program and by adding cybersecurity to the list of research areas authorized under the act. The U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 currently authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct cooperative research programs to enhance Israel's capabilities in border security, explosives detection, and emergency services. My bill now adds cybersecurity to that important list.

Mr. Speaker, violence and instability in the Middle East present significant challenges for Israel as our major strategic partner in that region of the world, and enhancing collaboration between our countries is, therefore, essential to ensuring Israel's continued ability to defend herself.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this legislation following an in-depth congress-

sional delegation that I led to Israel earlier this year, along with my colleague, Mr. LANGEVIN. While there, we were able to meet with Israel's top national security figures, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to discuss homeland security and cybersecurity threats to the United States and Israel, and to develop strategies for better cooperation in defending against these threats.

Mr. LANGEVIN and I also met with Israel's cybersecurity firms to learn about their efforts and to discuss the potential application of these innovative technologies to U.S. homeland security. In recent years, Israel's tech sector has been booming with cybersecurity and technology startups, and many United States tech companies now have a presence in Israel. Much of Israel's success in the tech sector results from its development of a very robust cyber workforce, and we discussed ways to apply these lessons here in the United States.

The United States and Israel share a joint recognition that cybersecurity is national security, and that our two nations must closely partner to combat these growing threats. This is exactly why I was so pleased to be able to introduce H.R. 5877, the United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016, and why I also express my strong support for Mr. LANGEVIN's bill, H.R. 5843, the United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2016.

I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. LANGEVIN, for his bipartisan partnership on these very important bills. As the co-founder and cochairman of the bipartisan Cybersecurity Caucus, he has long been a leader on cybersecurity issues here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Chairman McCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, and subcommittee Ranking Member RICHMOND for their help in getting this legislation across the finish line today. I also thank Chairman ROYCE and the staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their assistance in moving the legislation to the floor today.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL McCAUL,  
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCAUL: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee regarding H.R. 5877, the United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016. I agree that the Foreign Affairs Committee may be discharged from further consideration of that measure, so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding that forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar